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#78

EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

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YUGOSLAVIA

Yugoslavs "Adjust" Dolanc's Personal History

Stane Dolanc, the head of the party's executive committee and a prime contender for Tito's party posts, now has a re-written personal history that upgrades his wartime record. The current Yugoslav "Who's Who," published in 1970 says Dolanc began his partisan activity in 1944, when he was 19 years of age. Two weeks ago, however, the party congress published a short biography that says Dolanc not only began active work in the "liberation front" at the age of 15 in 1941 but that he also was captured by the Gestapo the same year.

The revision is curious and could be important. Early in their careers, most Yugoslav officials develop a curriculum vitae that fully details their claims to partisan experience. Revisions like this are rare and somewhat suspicious, especially when they benefit an up-and-coming politician.

The distinction between those who went to war in 1941--the "first-fighters"--and those who joined in 1944 when the Germans were on the run is significant in Yugoslav politics. The latter group travels under a mild cloud of suspicion as "opportunists". Dolanc's adjusted record is impossible to verify from this vantage point but its impact could well be to smooth his relations with the older generation, which now looks to men in their sixties for leadership.

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POLAND

Honecker Concludes Polish Visit

On Saturday East German party chief Erich Honecker concluded a five-day visit to Poland which concentrated on improving already significant GDR-Polish economic relations, promoting reconciliation, and proclaiming bloc orthodoxy.

Economic ties provided the most useful opportunities for mutual back slapping. Joint enterprises, based on complementary

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-2-

contributions are putting into practice the kind of economic integration so desired by CEMA planners. Polish Vice Premier Jan Mitrega also claimed Polish-East German trade has the highest growth rate among the socialist countries.

In a more negative vein, the two leaders worked to undercut the legacy of Polish-German tensions from the last war. Gierek's frequent references to the GDR as a state "created by anti-fascist forces" and Honecker's visit to Bydgoszcz, where the Nazis carried out the first mass executions of Poles, were visible attempts at reducing nationality prejudices that still complicate bilateral understanding.

The joint communique issued at the end of the visit shows both leaders' orthodox views on foreign policy and detente, affirming that "the fundamental principle by which they are motivated in international policy is the strengthening of the socialist community grouped around the Soviet Union."

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